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Claims

1. A method of processing calls comprising the steps of:
- receiving a call that specifies a destination address
  wherein the destination address is identical to a sub-
  scriber's regular directory number;
- determining at a first network element (105) whether re-
  directing of the call to a second network element (130)
  is active, and if active:
  - redirecting the call to said second network element
    (130);
  - checking at the second network element (130) whether
    at least one of simultaneous and sequential routing
    is active, and if active, accessing a list listing a
    plurality of destinations; and
  - originating call legs for destinations in the list
    according to the results of the checking step;
- and if not active, applying default routing of the call
  to a subscriber destination corresponding to said regular
  directory number.

13. A system for processing calls, the system comprising:
- a first network element (105) for receiving a call that
  specifies a destination address wherein the destination
  address is identical to a subscriber's regular directory
  number, the first network element (105) having means for
  determining whether redirecting the call to a second net-
  work element (130) is active, and if active, redirecting
  the call to said second network element (130), and if not
  active, applying default routing of the call to a sub-
  scriber destination corresponding to said regular direc-
  tory number;
- a means associated with the second network element (130)
  for checking whether at least one of simultaneous and se-
  quential routing is active, and if active, accessing a
  list listing a plurality of destinations; and
- a means for originating call legs for destinations in the
  list according to the results of the checking step.

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Claims

1. A method of processing calls comprising the steps of:
    - receiving a call that specifies a destination address;
    - determining at a first network element (105) whether re-
      directing of the call to a second network element (130)
      is active, and if active, redirecting the call to said
      second network element (130);
    - checking at the second network element (130) whether at
      least one of simultaneous and sequential routing is ac-
      tive, and if active, accessing a list listing a plurality
      of destinations; and
    - originating call legs for destinations in the list ac-
      cording to the results of the checking step.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining
    whether redirecting of the call is active comprises the
    step of querying a local number portability database or
    evaluating a terminating attempt advanced intelligent
    network trigger.

3. The method of any of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the step
    of redirecting the call comprises redirecting the call to
    a softswitch.

4. The method of any of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the
    originating step simultaneously originates a plurality of
    call legs when the checking step determines that simulta-
    neous routing is active.

5. The method of any of the claims 1 through 4, wherein the
    originating step sequentially originates a plurality of
    call legs when the checking step determines that sequen-
    tial routing is active.

6. The method of any of the claims 1 through 5, wherein the
    step of checking comprises a step of checking at least

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one of the routing parameters time of day, day of week,
and calling party identity.

7.   The method of any of the claims 1 through 6, further com-
5   prising starting a timer for timing duration of the
     originated call legs.

8.   The method of any of the claims 1 through 7, further com-
     prising checking a timer for expiration, and if expired,
10   disconnecting any originated call legs.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising routing the re-
     ceived call to the destination address using default
     processing.
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10. The method of any of the claims 1 through 9, further com-
     prising detecting an answer by one of originated legs and
     completing a call connection.

20   11. The method of any of the claims 1 through 10, further
     comprising updating call statuses when one of the call
     legs is answered.

12. The method of any of the claims 1 through 11, wherein the
25   originating step originates a combination of simultane-
     ously originated call legs and sequentially originated
     call legs as determined by the checking step.

13. A system for processing calls, the system comprising:
30   - a first network element (105) for receiving a call that
     specifies a destination address, the first network ele-
     ment (105) having means for determining whether redirect-
     ing the call to a second network element (130) is active,
     and if active, redirecting the call to said second net-
35   work element (130);
     - a means associated with the at the second network element
     (130) for checking whether at least one of simultaneous

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and sequential routing is active, and if active, access-
ing a list listing a plurality of destinations; and
- a means for originating call legs for destinations in the
list according to the results of the checking step.

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14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first network element
    (105) comprises means for querying a local number port-
    ability database or evaluating a terminating attempt ad-
    vanced intelligent network trigger in order to determine
10 whether redirecting of the call is active

15. The system of any of the claims 13 or 14, wherein the
    second network element (130) comprises a softswitch.

15 16. The system of any of the claims 13 through 15, wherein
    the means for originating call legs simultaneously origi-
    nates a plurality of call legs if the checking step de-
    termines that simultaneous routing is active and sequen-
    tially originates a plurality of calls if the checking
20 step determines that sequential routing is active.

17. The system of any of the claims 13 through 16, wherein
    the means for checking provides for checking parameters
    that include at least one of time of day, day of week,
25 and calling party identity, the parameters controlling
    conditions when the originating step occurs.

18. The system of any of the claims 13 through 17, further
    comprising a means for starting a timer for timing dura-
30 tion of the simultaneously originated call legs.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a means for
    checking the timer for expiration, and if expired, aban-
    doning the simultaneously originated call legs.
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20. The system of any of the claims 13 through 19, further
    comprising a means for routing the received call to the
    destination address using default processing.

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21. The system of any of the claims 13 through 20, further
    comprising a means for detecting an answer by an origi-
    nated call leg and completing a call connection.

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22. The system of any of the claims 13 through 21, further
    comprising a means for updating call statuses when one of
    the call legs is answered.

10   23. The system of any of the claims 13 through 22, wherein
     the means for originating is one of a gateway and a soft-
     switch.

24. The system of any of the claims 13 through 23, wherein
15   the means for originating call legs originates a combina-
     tion of simultaneously originated call legs and sequen-
     tially originated call legs.

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